

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 05420 100809Z

13

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 COME-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

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R 100725Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9862

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, EPAP, ETRD

SUBJ: RUBBER - ANRPC NATURAL RUBBER PRICE STABILIZATION SCHEME

REF: A) BANGKOK 1765, B) STATE 048710 C) KUALA LUMPUR 1180

1. DURING 4-5 MARCH CONVERSATIONS WITH DIRECTOR OF RUBBER DIVISION OF RTG MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATIVES (WHO IS ALSO NUMBER TWO MAN ON RTG DELEGATION TO ANRPC) AND WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF RTG RUBBER REPLANTING FUND, EMBOFF INFORMED THAT RESCHEDULING OF KUALA LUMPUR ANRPC MEETING FROM FEBRUARY TO 23-25 MARCH DONE LARGELY AS ACCOMMODATION TO RTG. RTG CHIEF DELEGATE ANRPC, RUBBER REPLANTING FUND DIRECTOR DR. PHIT PANYALAKSHAMA, HAS BEEN ABSENT IN WASHINGTON SINCE MID-FEBRUARY NEGOTIATION \$50 MILLION WORLD BANK LOAN FOR RTG RUBBER REPLANTING PROGRAM BUT IS EXPECTED TO RETURN IN TIME FOR MARCH MEETING.

2. RTG OFFICIALS SAID THEY NOT SURE WHETHER OR NOT SINGAPORE WILL ATTEND MARCH MEETING BUT THAT SINGAPORE HAS NOW AGREED

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 05420 100809Z

IN PRINCIPLE TO ACCEPT WHATEVER PRICE STABILIZATION/BUFFER

STOCK ARRANGEMENTS ARE AGREED ON BY NATURAL RUBBER PRODUCING MEMBERS OF ANRPC. RTG OFFICIALS CITE THIS AS MAJOR STEP FORWARD SINCE DECEMBER ANRPC MEETING IN BANGKOK. AS A RESULT, RTG OPTIMISM (REF A) RE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHEME HAS BECOME LESS CAUTIOUS. DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF RUBBER RE-PLANTING FUND SAID THAT SINGAPORE NOW "ON OUR SIDE" AND THAT SINGAPORE AND THAILAND HAVE FORMED A SORT OF ALLIANCE FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF ANRPC MEETINGS IN MARCH.

3. COMMENT: ANRPC MEMBERS DO APPEAR TO BE MOVING SLOWLY BUT SURELY TOWARD A PRICE STABILIZATION SCHEME. WE DO NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS SCHEME WILL SUDDENLY COME TO LIFE AND BEGIN OPERATING EFFECTIVELY IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. BASED ON PAST STOP AND START NATURE OF ANRPC ACTIVITIES AND INABILITY OF RTG OFFICIALS TO WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN TO PROVIDE ANY SPECIFICS ON MECHANICS OF PRICE STABILIZATION PLAN, WE BELIEVE THERE ARE STILL DEFINITE LABOR PAINS TO COME BEFORE PRICE STABILIZATION IS BORN AND PUT INTO EFFECTIVE OPERATION.

WHITEHOUSE

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